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# SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ELECTROSURGICAL CUTTING AND ABLATION

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5           An electrosurgical probe (10) comprises a shaft (13)  
having an electrode array (58) at its distal end and a  
connector (19) at its proximal end for coupling the electrode  
array to a high frequency power supply (28). The shaft  
includes a return electrode (56) recessed from its distal end  
10 and enclosed within an insulating jacket (18). The return  
electrode defines an inner passage (83) electrically connected  
to both the return electrode and the electrode array for  
passage of an electrically conducting liquid (50). By  
applying high frequency voltage to the electrode array and the  
15 return electrode, the electrically conducting liquid generates  
a current flow path between the return electrode and the  
electrode array so that target tissue may be cut or ablated.  
The probe is particularly useful in dry environments, such as  
the mouth or abdominal cavity, because the electrically  
20 conducting liquid provides the necessary return current path  
between the active and return electrodes.

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